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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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INFORMATION REPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Comments on Report of Military Movements in
the Surava Area and in Southwest Bohemia

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1. There are no indications that the 11th Infantry Division has moved from its billeting area of Tachov-Pilsen-Domazlice, nor are there any indications of the transfer of the 5th Motorized Infantry Division, which is believed still to be in the Prague area.
2. The 13th Infantry Brigade is confirmed to be in the Cheb-Karlovy Vary area up to mid-October 1950. It has been reported that brigades (sic, probably units) of the 46th Infantry Battalion were to start moving from As to an undetermined new post on 10 October. About the same time infantry units were observed arriving in the Volary area which is part of the billeting area of the 2nd Infantry Brigade at Susice.* These two items may be considered a vague indication of the transfer of the 13th Infantry Division from the As-Cheb-Karlovy Vary area to the Susice area.
3. There has been no information on the reported arrival of tank units in the Stribro-Lazne Kynzvar area.
4. One independent infantry battalion and one artillery battalion, totaling approximately 1,200 troops, and an QNB company of approximately 150 men have so far been known to be located at Cheb. It seems doubtful that as many as 4,560 troops were stationed at Cheb at the time of the report. The reinforcement of military personnel at Cheb to a total of 15,000 would necessitate the evacuation of most of the civilian residents of the town.
5. The readiness of induction orders for reservists is correct but this is a routine peacetime measure of all armed forces. Also true is the number of Soviet officers who have supervised the training of recruits in Czechoslovakia since October 1950. It appears probable that Czech border control will be reorganized on the Soviet model and thus made more effective in an effort to prevent the large-scale outflow of refugees.
6. It is conceded that changes in the disposition of military units may have taken place along the Czech western border area, but their scope and purpose remains uncertain. The recent induction of recruits makes any large-scale changes in disposition doubtful because a transfer would interrupt the training program of recruits. If reinforcement of the western border area were actually effected, it would seem illogical that the 13th Infantry Brigade, which is already located

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in that area, should move to the neighboring border sector. It would be more reasonable to shift new units from other areas to the border.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: This is now known as the 4th Infantry Division (see paragraph 3b of [REDACTED])

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